

ONE HUNDRED FIFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2017
COMMITTEE STATEMENT (CORRECTED)
LB348

Hearing Date: Tuesday January 31, 2017
Committee On: Agriculture
Introducer: Larson
One Liner: Eliminate licensing, an excise tax, and other provisions of the Nebraska Potato Development Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Indefinitely postponed

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Albrecht, Blood, Brasch, Chambers, Halloran, Harr, Krist, Lowe
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Verbal Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Tyson Larson
Mat Habrock
Nicole Fox

Representing:

Introducer
Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Platte Institute for Economic Research

Opponents:

Gary Leever
Jim Allen
Joseph Thompson
Tracil Power
Tim May
Taylor May
Jeff Collins

Representing:

Self
Western Potatoes, Inc.
Self
LSS Farms, Inc.
Frenchman Valley Produce
Self
Walther Farms

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 348 effectively terminates the Nebraska Potato Development Act. That Act establishes a Division of Potato Development within the Department of Agriculture vesting in the Director authority to carry out a program of potato research and promotion funded by excise taxes assessed against potato shippers. Specifically, the substantive provisions of LB 348:

-- Outright repeals sections 2-1805 through 2-1807 and sections 2-1810 through 2-1812. These sections collectively provide mechanisms for assessing and collecting the promotional assessment, directing funds collected to be deposited in the Potato Development Fund, authorizing the Director to make expenditures for promotion of the potato industry of the state, and creating the Nebraska Potato Development Committee to advise the Director in his duties under the Act;

-- Amends section 2-1808 of the Act to terminate the Nebraska Potato Development Fund created under this section on the effective date of the Act and directs the transfer of the balance of the fund to the General Fund at that time;

-- Amends section 2-1809 to strike portions of the section that are obsolete due to the repeal of the remainder of the Act.

The bill provides an operative date of August 1, 2017 and includes the emergency clause to accommodate the operative date.

Lydia Brasch, Chairperson